

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for recognizing a curved lane in a road modeling system, the method comprising:

(a) dividing an image processing range into an upper range and a lower range if photographs of lane images are supplied;

(b) modeling straight lines in the two divided image processing ranges respectively, and obtaining a curvature of the lane using the modeled straight lines.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises:

(c) modeling straight lines in the two ranges respectively;

(d) obtaining a triangle, two sides of which are the two modeled lines;

and

(e) calculating a radius of a circumcircle of the triangle and estimating therewith a curvature of the lane.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the straight line of the upper range is obtained by connecting a road image disappearing point and a point centered between two points at which lane edges intersect a line dividing the image processing range, and the straight line of the lower range is obtained by connecting the point centered between the two points at which the lane edges intersect the line dividing the image processing range and a point centered between two points at which lane edges intersect a bottom line of the lower range, and the triangle is obtained by connecting the road image disappearing point and the two central points.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the curvature of the lane is

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estimated by an angle between the two modeled straight lines.

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